

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /076 W

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O 142210Z OCT 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8022

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO-MEAT IMPORT QUOTA QUESTION

1. FERCH AND AGATT WELTON MET SEPARATELY OCTOBER 14 WITH FRANCISCO RAMOS CANTORRAL, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, AND HUGO DIAZ THOME, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF SETTING A MEAT QUOTA FOR MEXICO DURING THE REMAINDER OF 1976 BELOW THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR PARTICIPATED IN LATTER CONVERSATION.

2. RAMOS AGREED THAT MEXICO WOULD EXPORT AT LEAST 10.0 MILLION POUNDS BELOW THE RESTRAINT LEVEL AND QUICKLY UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS UNDERLYING THE US PROPOSAL. HE WAS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH THE PRECEDENT SUCH A REDUCTION WOULD SET AND, ACCORDINGLY, RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO INDICATIONS FROM FERCH THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY. FERCH EXPLAINED THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD PROBABLY TAKE THE FORM OF A STATEMENT THAT IN FUTURE QUOTA OR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAMS THE QUOTE REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD END QUOTE ON WHICH ALLOCATIONS WOULD BE BASED WOULD BE 1973-74. IN

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CONCLUDING, RAMOS SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER RESPONSIBLE

OFFICIALS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS AND WITH INDUSTRY
SPOKESMEN AND WOULD ADVISE THE EMBASSY OF THEIR CONCLUSION FRIDAY
MORNING OCT 15.

3. AFTER LISTENING TO A REPLAY OF THE PRESENTATION, DIAZ ALSO EXPRESSED

UNDERSTANDING AND THE BELIEF THAT THE GOM WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEDE TO
THE
USG'S PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED THAT FOREIGN RELATIONS WOULD PROBABLY
FOLLOW AGRICULTURE'S LEAD IN THE MATTER.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT POLITICAL ELEMENTS
COULD UNDERCUT GOM COOPERATION, THE OUTLOOK AT THIS TIME IS POSITIVE.
SINCE THE ACTUAL AGREEMENT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF AN EXCHANGE OF
LETTERS,
IT WILL TAKE SOME DAYS TO COMPLETE. IT IS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT THAT,
IF THE GOM ADVISES THE EMBASSY FRIDAY THAT IT WILL COOPERATE, NO
PUBLICITY BE GIVEN THE AGREEMENT UNTIL THE LETTERS ARE EXCHANGED.
THIS MEANS THAT THE QUOTAS FOR CANADA AND MEXICO SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED

UNTIL THEN.

5. FOR PAUL TAYLOR, PLEASE ADVISE FERCH'S WIFE THAT HE WILL ARRIVE
FRIDAY ON AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 58. CHECK WHETHER NATIONAL OR
DULLES.
JOVA

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